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ABSTRACT

This survey, administered in March 1978, gathered data about current testing practices among post-secondary educational institutions in the state of Washington. The data concern the admission and placement of students who have had little or no post-secondary education. Data are presented in tables under the following headings: (1) Testing--Requirement for Admission; (2) Testing--Course Placement--Cutoff Scores; (3) Testing--Course Scheduling--Advising Only; (4) Test Utilized; and (5) Testing--Program Entrance--Minimum Standards. A few general conclusions are made. Most colleges include testing as a secondary requirement of the admission process. Testing for couse placement is more common in community than four-year colleges; standardized tests of reading and English composition are often used. The use of locally-developed tests has increased, and community programs in colleges with vocational programs in health services have established minimum standards for admission to the program. (Author/CTM)

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A SURVEY OF TESTING PRACTICES AMONG POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE - 1978

This survey, administered during March 1978, attempted to gather base line data about current testing practices among post-secondary educational institutions in the State of Washington. Testing instruments, utilized in whole or part for admissions or placement purposes, were of particular interest. A rough draft of the results was disseminated to participants at ICRC's Advisor Workshop held at Ft. Steilacoom Community College April 10, 1978 and to ICRC representatives by mail the following week. This final revised document is now presented to Commission members with certain qualifications. First, this survey does not attempt to decipher the labyrinth of admission/testing procedures for transfer students. The data is relevant and applicable to those admission and placement procedures utilized by institutions in the assessment of students who have had little or no post-secondary education. Secondly, try as I may to make the questions clear and mutually exclusive, some "translations" occurred. A case in point is the four-year public institutions' responses to the following question: "Is testing a requirement of your general admissions policy?" Although it appears that most students attending these institutions must eventually present a WPCT test score (or equivalent) to have access to certain courses and/or advising services, some institutions chose to view this requirement as

admissions testing; others did not. This situation not withstanding, I am pleased with both the quality and completeness of the replies to the survey. I thank Commission members for their support and cooperation and trust that this study is found to be of some value.

The survey reveals a wide variety of testing practices; nevertheless, a few general patterns do emerge. They may be summarized as follows:

1. Most four-year institutions include testing as a requirement of their general admission policy; nevertheless, with only three exceptions (Gonzaga, Pacific Lutheran, and Whitman), testing is viewed as possessing secondary importance in the admission process;
2. After admission, specific testing for course placement occurs less frequently among four-year institutions but is common practice among community colleges;
3. The most frequent utilization of placement testing is Standardized Reading/English test for English Composition. Somewhat less frequent is the practice of utilizing standardized or locally-developed mathematics tests for course placement in mathematics;
4. Most recently, there has been a move by some community colleges to use locally-developed writing tests to supplement or replace standardized instruments for English Composition;

5. community colleges with vocational programs in health services have established minimum standards for program entrance.

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TABLE I

	CWU	EWU	Evergreen	Ft. Wright	Gonzaga	Northwest	PLU	St. Martin's	SPU	SU	UPS	UW	Walla Walla	WSU	WWU	Whitman	Whitworth
1. Testing--Requirement for Admission?	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
A. Major factor					X		X									X	
B. Significant but secondary								X	X		X	X					X
C. Minor--little significant weight given																	
D. Counseling/advising purposes only		X				X								X	X		
2. Testing--Course Placement--Cutoff Scores?	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes		No	Yes	No	Yes
A. English Composition	X	X			X	X					X	X			X		X
B. Mathematics	X				X		X				X	X			X		
C. Natural Science											X	X					
D. Other	*1						*2				*2	*2					2*
3. Testing--Course Scheduling--Advising Only?				Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes			
A. English composition				X	X				X	X	X						
B. Mathematics		X			X				X	X	X						
C. Natural Science		X									X						
D. Other		X								*2	X						

*1. Teacher education

*2. Foreign language

TABLE II

A = Admission
P = Course Placement

6. Test Utilized	CWU	EWU	Evergreen	Ft. Wright	Gonzaga	Northwest	PLU	St. Martin's	SPU	SU	UPS	UW	Walla Walla	WSU	WWU	Whitman	Whitworth
			1					2		1				1			A/P
WPCT	P	P		A	A	A/P	A		A		A	A			P	A	A/P
SAT				A	A/P	A/P	A		A		A	A				A	A/P
ACT				A	A	A/P	A		A		A	A				A	
GATB																	
CGP (Comparative Guidance Placement)																	
DAT (Differential Aptitude Test)																	
Standardized Reading																	
Standard Mathematics												P					
Locally Developed Reading		P		P													
Locally Developed Mathematics		P			P						P	P					
Interview Procedures					A							P					
Other:																	
TOEFL	A	A			A						A	P				A	
Michigan Test (ESL)					A												
Advanced Placement	P	P			P						P						
Proficiency Examination	P[3]	P			P											P	
CTBS - Battery	P																
SCAT															P		

1 - No admission testing
2 - Testing required for admission--none identified by name
3 - Music, Business Education, Foreign Language

TABLE III

	Bellevue	Big Bend	Centralia	Clark	Columbia Basin	Edmonds	Everett	Ft. Steilacoom	Green River	Grays Harbor	Highline	Lower Columbia	Olympic	OTCC	Peninsula	Seattle Central	Seattle North	Seattle South	Shoreline	Skagit	Spokane	Spokane Falls	Tacoma	Walla Walla	Wenatchee	Whatcom	Yakima
2. Testing--Course Placement--Cutoff Scores?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
A. English Composition	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X
B. Mathematics	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X				X	X			X
C. Natural Science				X																							
D. Other														*		* **											**
3. Testing--Course Scheduling--Advising Only?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes				Yes					Yes					Yes			Yes		
A. English Composition	X	X	X	X		X		X									X					X			X		
B. Mathematics	X	X	X	X		X		X				X					X					X					
C. Natural Science				X																							
D. Other			X																								
4. Testing--Program Entrance--Minimum Standards?	No	Yes		Yes		Yes				Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes
		1 2		1		1				1	2 5			1		1 4 6 7	1 5			2 5	1	1		1			1
5. Testing--Program Entrance--Advising Only?	No		Yes											Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes					Yes
														4 2 3 5	1 2	2 5	4 5		1 4 5		4	4					2

* Reading Lab
** ESL

1 - Health
2 - Trade and Industrial
3 - Agricultural
4 - Business and Commerce
5 - Technological
6 - Social Service
7 - Food Service

TABLE IV

P - Course Placement
E - Program Entrance
A - Admission (Foreign Students)

6. Test Utilized

	Bellevue	Big Bend	Centralia	Clark	Columbia Basin[1]	Edmonds	Everett	Ft. Steilacoom	Green River	Grays Harbor	Highline	Lower Columbia	Olympic	OTCC	Peninsula	Seattle Central	Seattle North	Seattle South[1]	Shoreline	Skagit	Spokane[2]	Spokane Falls	Tacoma	Walla Walla	Wenatchee	Whatcom	Yakima
WPCT	P		P/E	P/E				P	P		P	P	P	P	P/E	P	P/E		P/E	P		P	P	P/E			P/E
SAT			P/E					P	P				P	P		P	P										P
ACT			P/E						P				P	P		P	P										P
GATB		E				E									P/E	E				E		P					
CGP (Comparative Guidance Placement)			P/E											P/E	P/E	P/E							P				
DAT																	P/E										
Standardized Reading	P/E			P/E		P					P	P	P			P							P				P
Standardized Mathematics	P			P/E							P					P	P										
Locally Developed Reading	P									P															P[3]		
Locally Developed Mathematics	P	P		P/E		P/E		P	P	P		P				E				P		P					
Interview Procedures		E				P								E					E			P	P/E	E			
Other:																											
TOEFL						A					A					A	A	A					A				A[5]
Cooperative Inter-American (ESL)																P/A							A				
SCAT											E																
Advanced Placement			P														P										
Purdue Pegboard																E	P/E										E
Nursing Examination																								E			
TSWE				P/E																							
Locally Developed Writing	P					P	P	P	P	P							P		A[4]						P[3]	P	

1 - No testing required
2 - No response to this section
3 - Implementation Fall 1978
4 - Used in conjunction with CELT
5 - Used in conjunction with Michigan (ESL)